

# TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Historical Facts about Gaston County Public Library

Compiled by Brian Brown

#### Library Established

1937

#### Notable Librarians

Charlotte "Lottie" Blake was the county's first librarian. She began her work in 1904.

#### First Bookmobile

Gaston County purchased the first bookmobile in 1937 for \$978 with county appropriations. The bookmobile was nicknamed "Parnassus" for the book, *Parnassus on Wheels* by Christopher Morley. It was a maroon colored International van with customized outside display bookshelves. The bookmobile carried 350 books on the outside display shelves, as well as several hundred more within. (*Gaston County Public Library: 1905-1981: A chronology of seventy-five years of growth and development* / compiled, arranged, and edited by Robert N. Hoffman)

#### Important Facts

About 1902, Dr. D. E. McConnell, a Gastonia dentist, had a small circulating library collection in his office located in the YMCA building. In 1904, when this collection could no longer meet public demand, a group of 25-30 people met in the parlor of the Falls House and heard the Rev. W. H. Reddish preach a sermon about the need for a permanent Gastonia library. The Gastonia Library